



To: Park Board

Agenda Item #: VI.A.

From: Ann Kattreh
Parks & Recreation Director

Action ☒
Discussion ☐
Information ☐

Date: May 13, 2014

Subject: Nine Mile Creek Trail Alignment Through Bredesen Park

Action Requested:

Provide direction to the Three Rivers Park District staff on the alignment of the Nine Mile Creek Trail through Bredesen Park by selecting one of the three options presented.

Information / Background:

At the April 8, 2014 Park Board meeting three different alignments of the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail through Bredesen Park were presented by Three Rivers Park District staff. The Park District would like to receive support of a Bredesen Park trail alignment by the Park Board so that they can continue finalizing the trail route and bridges. The Park Board will be asked to support the entire trail alignment at the June 10 Park Board meeting.

Attached please find a letter by Eric Nelson, Senior Manager of Engineering for Three Rivers Park District (TRPD). TRPD and SEH Engineering have concluded that Option 1 presented on April 8 is the most efficient and environmentally friendly approach to the Bredesen Park and Highway 62 bridge crossing.

Parks & Recreation Department staff agrees that Option 1 is the least impactful to the environment of the park. If the Park Board agrees that Option 1 is favorable, the large question that remains is whether the trail should remain one-way (counterclockwise) or if the entire bike trail should be converted to a two-way trail. If the Park Board would like to keep the trail one-way, the City of Edina Engineering and Public Works staff is confident that adequate signage would allow for a safe mix of the two-way Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail and the one-way Bredesen Park bike trail. One consideration is for residents wanting to gain access to the Nine Mile Creek Trail from the east side of Bredesen Park. With the current one-way trail, users would have to go two thirds (or more) of the way around Bredesen Park in order to access the Nine Mile Creek Trail, or ride illegally in the wrong direction on the bike trail. If the Bredesen Park trail was two-way, residents would have the ability to turn left and have a short ride to access the Regional Trail.

Unfortunately, the wet and cold weather in April delayed an effort to survey users of Bredesen Park. The Three Rivers Park District created a survey of park users and trained city staff in surveying techniques. At least 7 hours of survey time (5/3 – 5/6) was spent at Bredesen Park interviewing trail users. The report is

attached. If the Park Board prefers, a decision on the direction of traffic flow on the bike trail could be delayed in order to gather more information from trail users. If the Park Board is ready to make a decision on the direction of flow of bike traffic, it could be included in the motion to provide further direction to TRPD staff.

Staff agrees with the Three Rivers Park District and SEH Engineering's recommendation of Option 1. The City of Edina Engineering staff also favors Option 1. Option 3 removes dozens of trees and creates a difficult and potentially dangerous crossing of the bike and walking trail in the southwest corner of the park. Option 2 would cause significant impact to the environment in terms of tree removal and grading, would add significant hard surface to the park and would clear the buffer of trees and brush that protects the park from Highway 62. Staff feels that this option would be detrimental to the entire southern portion of the park.

Attachments:

Eric Nelson, Three Rivers Park District Letter
Bredesen Park Map
Survey Results



May 2, 2014

Three Rivers
Park District
Board of
Commissioners

Ms. Ann Kattreh
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Edina
4801 W. 50th Street
Edina, MN 55424

Penny Steele
District 1

RE: Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail in Bredesen Park

Jennifer DeJournett
District 2

Dear Ms. Kattreh:

Daniel Freeman,
Vice Chair
District 3

On April 8, 2014, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) gave an update to the Edina Park Board on the preliminary engineering efforts to date on the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail in Edina. Three options for the route of the regional trail through Bredesen Park were presented and discussed at that meeting. The following is a summary of the three options presented and graphics for each option are attached to this letter.

John Gunyou,
Chair
District 4

Option 1: This option would convert a short segment of the existing bike trail in the southwest corner of Bredesen Park into a 2-way regional trail. On the west side of Nine Mile Creek, the bike trail and pedestrian trail would be combined and pass over the creek on a singular bridge, where users would have the choice of continuing east and reconnecting to the existing park trails or turning south to go over Highway 62 on the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail. The main advantages of this alternative is that it is the most economical solution and will cause the least amount of disturbance to the natural resources of Bredesen Park. One disadvantage of this alternative is that it would require all or a portion of the currently one-way trails in Bredesen Park to be converted to a two-way trail.

John Gibbs
District 5

Larry Blackstad
Appointed
At Large

Option 2: This option would construct the regional trail in the southwest corner of Bredesen Park running parallel to the existing bike trail. The existing pedestrian and bike trails would remain in their present condition. Based on feedback received at the April 8th Park Board meeting and further site investigation, the Park District has eliminated this option from consideration due to extensive grading, loss of vegetative screening from Highway 62, and impacts to the park's natural resources to create duplicative infrastructure where better options exist.

Steve Antolak
Appointed
At Large

Cris Gears
Superintendent

Option 3: This option would extend the proposed bridge over Highway 62 to span the existing bike and pedestrian trails and route the regional trail through an upland area between the creek and a large wetland complex. The regional trail would have an at-grade intersection with the bike and pedestrian trails at the north end of the park and a new pedestrian bridge would be needed for the regional trail to pass over the creek in the northwest corner of the park. The main advantages of this option are that it keeps the regional trail separate from the park trails and

Administrative Center, 3000 Xenium Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55441-1299

Information 763.559.9000 • TTY 763.559.6719 • Fax 763.559.3287 • www.ThreeRiversParks.org

allows the one-way directionality of the park trails to remain. The main disadvantage of this option is the extensive amount of tree clearing and grading required in an undisturbed area of the park to create the new regional trail route.

After extensive analysis and on-site consideration, TRPD believes that **Option 1** represents the best solution due to its relatively minimal impact on the natural resources of Bredesen Park and its most efficient use of taxpayer money. Based on our on-site observations, it seemed like many park users are either unaware or choosing to disregard the one-way directionality of the park trails. However, if the city wishes to maintain the one-way directionality of the trails in park, we feel that an effective signage plan could be developed to allow the short segment of combined park trail and regional trail to be a safe two-way trail.

It is our understanding that city staff will be conducting the public survey designed by the city and the Park District in the coming days to gauge park user's awareness of and desire for a one-way trail system, as well as get feedback on the proposed regional trail options. We look forward to presenting those results and discussing the options again with the Park Board at their May 13, 2014 meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Nelson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eric Nelson
Senior Manager of Engineering

C: Jonathan Vlaming, Three Rivers Park District
Toby Muse, SEH

Attachments: Graphics for Options 1 through 3















Bredesen Park



May 5, 2014

1:12,801

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
|  Edina City Limits |  Parks |  Blue: Band_3 |
|  Streets |  Red: Band_1 |  World Shaded Relief |
|  Lakes |  Green: Band_2 | |

Copyright© 2014 Esri
Hennepin County
©LOGIS 2013